

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 18, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 8-41 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 8-20, 23, 24, 26, 33, 34, 35, and 37 have been canceled, and claims 21, 22, 25, 28, 31, 36, 39, 40, and 41 have been amended, and claims 42-44 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 9 and 10

Claims 9 and 10 have been objected to, however, these claims have been canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 8-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Swartzell (U.S. Patent No. 6,315,336) in view of Barnett (U.S. Patent No. 4,374,320). Claims 8-20, 23, 24, 26, 33, 34, 35, and 37 have been canceled. Claims 21, 22, 25, 28, 31, 36, 39, 40, and 41 have been amended to further define the invention. Reconsideration of claims 21-41, as amended, is respectfully requested.

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Discussion Re: Patentability of Claim 21

Amended Claim 21

Among other limitations, claim 21 have been amended to recite the following:

a cam follower having an opening defined therein, said cam being received within said opening,

wherein rotational movement of said cam causes reciprocating linear translation of said cam follower, and

wherein reciprocating linear translation of said cam follower causes actuation of at least one of said plurality of switches.

Neither Swartzell nor Barnett discloses these limitations. In Swartzell, the cam 26 includes a lobe 32 that is advanced into contact with switch buttons of microswitches 34, 36. In contrast to Applicant's amended claim 1, the cam 30 is not received within an opening of a cam follower that causes reciprocating linear translation of the cam follower upon rotation of the cam. Further, Barnett appears to operate somewhat similar to Swartzell. The cam member 35 of Barnett includes a lobe that contacts switch buttons 204a, 206a of microswitches 204, 206. Again, the cam member 35 is not received within an opening of a cam follower that causes reciprocating linear translation of the cam follower upon rotation of the cam.

Since neither Swartzell nor Barnett discloses these above-identified limitations, then a system resulting from a combination of Swartzell and Barnett does not arrive the invention of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Swartzell nor Barnett cannot be combined to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with regard to the invention of amended claim 1.

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Discussion Re: Patentability of Claims 22, 25, and 27-30

Each of claims 22, 25, and 27-30 depends directly or indirectly from claim 21. As a result, each of claims 22, 25, and 27-30 are allowable for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 21.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claim 31

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 21 is relevant to the patentability of claim 31. Thus, claim 31 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claims 32, 36, and 38

Each of claims 32, 36, and 38 depends directly or indirectly from claim 31. As a result, each of claims 32, 36, and 38 are allowable for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 31.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claim 39

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 21 is relevant to the patentability of claim 39. Thus, claim 39 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

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Discussion Re: Patentability of Claims 40-41

Each of claims 40-41 depends directly from claim 39. As a result, each of claims 40-41 are allowable for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 39.

Newly Added Claims 42-44

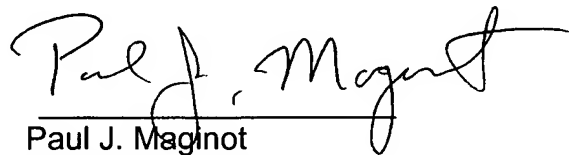
Claims 42-44 have been added. Such claims recite novel and nonobvious limitations. Accordingly, claims 42-44 are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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